

# City of Deer Park **Messenger**

Fall 2016

## 2016-2017 Budget

On July 28, the City Manager presented to the Mayor and City Council a proposed budget for the fiscal year that begins on October 1, 2016 (FY 2016-2017). The City Manager's proposed operating budget totals \$59,677,066. The proposed operating budget expenditures for the major City funds are as follows:

General Fund .....	\$37,524,428
Water & Sewer Fund.....	10,898,189
Debt Service Fund.....	6,689,214
Special Revenue Fund .....	1,723,423
Storm Water Utility Fund .....	374,812
Golf Course Lease Fund .....	120,000
Capital Improv. Fund.....	2,347,000
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$59,677,066</b>

As submitted, the operating budget anticipates a proposed tax rate of \$0.700000/\$100 of valuation, which is lower than the tax rate of \$0.714352/\$100 of valuation levied in FY 2015-2016. As in the past, all residential property owners will continue to receive a 20% value reduction on their homestead property for the purpose of computing the property tax. By way of example, the owner of a home valued at \$100,000 will pay property taxes on \$80,000 of that value. Additionally, senior citizens, age 65 and older, will continue receiving an additional exemption of \$50,000 on the

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## Fire Prevention Week

Fire Prevention Week is Oct. 9-15. This year's campaign, "Don't Wait - Check the Date! Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 Years," reinforces the importance of replacing smoke alarms. To find out when it's time to replace the smoke alarms in your home, simply look on the back of the alarm for the manufacture date. The smoke alarm should be replaced 10 years from the manufacture date, not the date of purchase or installation.

Many people assume that because they have smoke alarms, they're automatically protected in the event of a fire. In reality, it's not that simple. Smoke alarms need to be installed, maintained, and tested regularly to ensure that they are working properly.

### *Smoke Alarm Tips*

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement.
- Interconnect smoke alarms throughout the home so when one sounds, they will all sound.
- Test alarms each month.
- Replace all smoke alarms, including battery operated and hardwired alarms, when they are 10 years old or sooner if they do not respond properly.
- Be sure everyone in the home can identify the sound of the smoke alarms and that they understand what to do when they hear them.
- If the smoke alarm sounds, get outside and stay outside.

Please share these potentially life-saving tips about smoke alarms with your family, friends, and neighbors. For more information, go to [www.firepreventionweek.org](http://www.firepreventionweek.org) and [www.sparky.org/fpw](http://www.sparky.org/fpw).



### *Fire Prevention Parade*

Join Sparky on October 8 at 10am to kick off Fire Prevention Week with a parade. The parade route is on Center St. from P St. to 13<sup>th</sup> St. It's fun for the whole family!



# General Information

## Elected Officials

Jerry Mouton, Jr. ....	Mayor
Sherry Garrison .....	Council Member - Position 1
Thane Harrison .....	Council Member - Position 2
Tommy Ginn .....	Council Member - Position 3
Bill Patterson .....	Council Member - Position 4
Ron Martin .....	Council Member - Position 5
Rae A. Sinor .....	Council Member - Position 6

Contact the Mayor and members of City Council by e-mail at [cityhall@deerparktx.org](mailto:cityhall@deerparktx.org).

## Department Directors

James J. Stokes .....	City Manager
Gary M. Jackson .....	Assistant City Manager
Sandra Watkins .....	City Secretary
Donna Todd .....	Director, Finance
Bill Philibert .....	Director, Human Resources
Bill Pedersen .....	Director, Public Works
Scott E. Swigert .....	Director, Parks and Recreation
Rebecca Pool .....	Director, Library
Robert Hemminger .....	Director, Emergency Services
Greg Grigg .....	Chief of Police
James Lewis .....	Director, Information Technology

## Other Appointed Officials

Jim Fox .....	City Attorney
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## City Facilities

Animal Shelter .....	281-478-7274	4213 Luella
Art Park Players Dinner Theatre .....	281-478-7288	1302 Center
Avon Recreation Center .....	281-478-7216	601 W. 8 <sup>th</sup> Street
Battleground Golf Course .....	281-478-2080	1600 Georgia
City Hall .....	281-479-2394	710 E. San Augustine
Claude Burgess Recreation Center .....	281-478-2060	4200 Kalwick
Community Center .....	281-478-2050	610 E. San Augustine
Fire Station #1 .....	281-478-2043	1302 Center
Fire Station #2 .....	281-478-7282	711 E. Pasadena Blvd.
Fire Station #3 .....	281-478-7281	2211 East X
Jimmy Burke Activity Center .....	281-478-2049	500 W. 13 <sup>th</sup> Street
Kingsdale Center .....	281-478-7215	2218 Kingsdale
Maxwell Adult Center .....	281-478-7276	1201 Center
Municipal Court .....	281-478-7238	1302 Center
Police Station .....	281-479-1511	2911 Center
Public Library .....	281-478-7208	3009 Center
Swimming Pool .....	281-478-2055	610 E. San Augustine
Transfer Station .....	281-478-7213	610 Underwood
Visitors Center .....	832-780-0973	203 Ivy Ave., Suite 606

The Messenger is a quarterly newsletter published by the City of Deer Park, 710 E. San Augustine, Deer Park, Texas 77536. Go to [www.deerparktx.gov](http://www.deerparktx.gov) to read the newsletter online or to sign up for Notify Me so you can receive the latest edition of the Messenger by e-mail as soon as it is available.

## September

- 3 Siren Test 12pm
- 5 City Services Closed - Labor Day
- 6 City Council Meeting - 7:30pm
- 10 Siren Test 12pm
- 12 Planning & Zoning Meeting - 7:30pm
- 17 Siren Test 12pm
- 19 Planning & Zoning Meeting - 7:30pm
- 20 City Council Meeting - 7:30pm
- 24 Siren Test 12pm
- 27 LEPC Meeting - 11am

## October

- 1 Siren Test 12pm
- 3 Planning & Zoning Meeting - 7:30pm
- 4 City Council Meeting - 7:30pm
- 8 Siren Test 12pm
- 15 Siren Test 12pm
- 17 Planning & Zoning Meeting - 7:30pm
- 18 City Council Meeting - 7:30pm
- 22 Siren Test 12pm
- 25 LEPC Meeting - 11am
- 29 Siren Test 12pm

## November

- 1 City Council Meeting - 7:30pm
- 5 Siren Test 12pm
- 7 Planning & Zoning Meeting - 7:30pm
- 12 Siren Test 12pm
- 15 City Council Meeting - 7:30pm
- 19 Siren Test 12pm
- 21 Planning & Zoning Meeting - 7:30pm
- 24 City Services Closed - Thanksgiving Holiday
- 25 City Services Closed - Thanksgiving Holiday
- 26 Siren Test 12pm
- 29 LEPC Meeting - 11am



1600 Georgia Ave.

[www.battlegroundgolfcourse.com](http://www.battlegroundgolfcourse.com)

Golf Course 281-478-2080

Republic Grill 281-478-2089

# 2016-2017 Budget

*Continued from pg. 1*

value of their homestead. Utilizing the same example of a residence valued at \$100,000, a senior citizen will pay property tax on \$30,000 of the value of the residence. As a further benefit for senior citizens, ages 65 and older, the amount of property taxes paid to the City is capped as of the year in which they turn 65. Unless a senior citizen makes improvements to their home, such as adding a room or building a swimming pool, they will never pay more in property taxes to the City than the amount paid in the year they turn 65 years of age, even if their existing residence increases in value. For more information on these exemptions and the tax cap for senior citizens, please contact the City's Tax Department at 281-478-7222.

The City uses a variety of funds to pay for its operations. The General Fund includes monies for the general operation of the City, including services such as Police, Fire/EMS, Parks and Recreation, Public Works, Library, and Administration. The proposed FY 2016-2017 General Fund budget calls for a decreased ad valorem tax rate, 2 new full-time staff positions, and no cost of living increase for full-time City employees.

The City will continue addressing water and sewer capital improvements designated as part of a 10-year capital improvements program. These include continued renovations at our wastewater treatment plant, the rehabilitation of sewer lines, and the replacement of water lines in various locations of Deer Park. FY 2016-2017 is the sixth year of this program. These costs will be funded through the

issuance in FY 2016-2017 of nearly \$7,100,000 in certificates of obligation backed by water and sewer revenues. The City's Water & Sewer Fund operates as an enterprise fund, which means it derives revenue from water and sewer rates, not property taxes. Debt obligations for water and sewer system improvements must be funded by water and sewer revenues. No new full-time positions are proposed to be funded in the Water & Sewer Fund. For FY 2016-2017, water and sewer rates are budgeted to increase 5%. These new rates are necessary to support the increased cost of operations and debt service payments associated with the Water & Sewer Fund.

Funds in the Debt Service Fund are used to pay the annual interest and principal payments on the City's outstanding bonds, as well as the related paying agent fees. These expenditures in FY 2016-2017 are estimated to be \$6,689,214.

The Special Revenue Fund consists of revenue from the Hotel Occupancy Tax, Municipal Court fees, Police Forfeiture funds, and Grant funds. For FY 2016-2017, proposed Hotel Occupancy Tax expenditures total \$823,786. Several City events are funded through Hotel Occupancy Tax proceeds, including the annual Reindeer Park, partial co-sponsorship of the San Jacinto Day Festival and Battle Reenactment, and advertising of Deer Park's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Municipal Court fees will fund related Court expenditures of \$352,187 in FY 2016-2017, and Police Forfeiture funds will cover \$11,950 of Police Department expenditures. Additionally, the City is to receive \$535,500 in grant funds from the

Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, which will pay for new hike and bike trails, plus improvements at the Deer Park Nature Preserve.

The Capital Improvements Fund is for the purpose of funding capital improvements on a cash or pay-as-you-go basis, which reduces the use of long-term debt financing. Projects totaling \$2,347,000 are included in the FY 2016-2017 budget, with \$1,497,000 allocated for street improvements, \$500,000 for sidewalk improvements, and \$250,000 for drainage improvements. There is also a \$100,000 contingency for unforeseen capital needs.

The Storm Water Utility Fund allows the City to cover expenses associated with the unfunded federal mandate known as the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). The NPDES mandate requires cities to implement programs and practices to control polluted storm water run-off through a permitting program. Those expenses in FY 2016-2017 total \$374,812, and include continued lease-purchase payments toward a new street sweeper and a Gradall vehicle, which is used to clean ditches. Revenues to support this fund stem from a fee of \$1.45 per month per Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU), an increase of \$0.13 over the present fiscal year.

The Golf Course Lease Fund is used to record the expenditures associated with maintaining The Battleground Golf Course and Republic Grill through a lease agreement with Touchstone Golf. For FY 2016-2017, the Golf Course

# 2016-2017 Budget

Lease Fund expenditures are budgeted at \$120,000 for equipment rental, repairs, and maintenance. Budgeted revenues are down from past years due to a planned restructuring of the City's lease agreement with Touchstone Golf.

In May 2016, Deer Park voters re-authorized a ¼ cent sales tax for continuation of the Crime Control and Prevention District (CCPD) and a ¼ cent sales tax for continuation of the Fire Control, Prevention and Emergency Medical Services District (FCPEMSD). These districts are component units of the City, led by their respective Board of Directors. The FY 2016-2017

budgets of both districts provide dedicated resources beyond the City's General Fund, which allow for the purchase of many other items to be utilized by the Deer Park Police Department and the Deer Park Volunteer Fire Department. The CCPD's budgeted expenditures for FY 2016-2017 are \$1,320,000. For FY 2016-2017, the FCPEMSD's budgeted expenditures total \$1,636,312.

In May 2015, Deer Park voters approved the Deer Park Community Development Corporation (DPCDC), a Type B sales tax corporation supported by a ½ cent sales tax. The DPCDC oper-

ates under the direction of its own Board of Directors and exists to support 7 specific public parks improvement initiatives. For FY 2016-2017, DPCDC expenditures total \$3,296,596.

For more information about the proposed budget, please contact the City Manager's Office at 281-478-7245. You may also review the proposed budget at [www.deerparktx.gov](http://www.deerparktx.gov), or visit the City Secretary's Office or the Deer Park Public Library.



## Public Works

### *Drainage System Maintenance*

The drainage system in Deer Park includes both open and closed segments. The open sections are drainage swales and ditches, which are utilized to carry storm water away from homes to drainage areas. The closed system is comprised of storm water inlets and storm drain pipes, which also carry water from streets and developments to drainage areas.

Keeping the drainage system maintained is very important. The city performs maintenance work on the system at least twice a year and on an as-needed basis. Debris in ditches and streams can obstruct the flow of flood water, which can cause overflow onto streets and yards. Dumping is against city ordinance and may be punishable with a fine. To report illegal dumping, call 281-478-7252.

Citizens are expected to perform routine maintenance on ditches located on right-of-ways in front of their properties, including the removal of high weeds, litter, and other items that may be considered a nuisance. The area should also be kept free of stagnant water so it does not become an ideal breeding ground for mosquitos.

### *Know Your Flood Risk*

September is typically our most active month for hurricane and tropical storm activity. Keep in mind that it doesn't take a tropical event to cause flooding. Deer Park experienced major flooding during Tropical Storm Allison in 2001 and Tropical Storm Erin in 2007. However, the city also experienced flooding from simple heavy rain events in 1979, 1981, 1998, 2006, and 2008. Being prepared means knowing your risk. To determine if your property is located

in a regulated floodplain, contact the city's floodplain manager at [kholcomb@deerparktx.org](mailto:kholcomb@deerparktx.org). Keep in mind that your property doesn't need to be in a floodplain to experience flooding.

### *Protect Your Family and Property From Flooding*

- Contact your property insurance agent to see if a flood insurance policy would help you. Even if your not in the mapped floodplain, you may be subject to flooding from local drainage. In either case, flood insurance can be a good investment because most homeowners insurance policies do not cover damage caused by surface water flooding.
- Do not walk or drive through flood waters. Currents can be deceptive. A mere 6 inches of moving water can knock you off your feet. Do not drive around



## Public Works

barriers because the road or bridge may have washed away.

- Protect your property. There are ways to modify structures to minimize flood damage, such as flood proofing utilities. For more information, go to the city's flood management webpage at [www.deerparktx.gov/publicworks](http://www.deerparktx.gov/publicworks).
- Do not pour oil, grease, pesticides, or other pollutants down storm drains or into ditches and streams. Streams and wetlands help moderate flooding.

### City Projects

- *Waste Water Treatment Plant Improvement Project, Phase I* - This project is identified in the 10-year Water and Sewer Capital Improvement Plan and is split into two phases. In May 2013, City Council authorized staff to enter into a contract with CDM Smith for the design of phase 1. Phase I has been awarded to CSA Construction for \$4,908,600. Construction began in June 2015 and is anticipated to continue through 2017, possibly 2018. The project is being funded with Certificates of Obligation.
- *Police Firing Range and Classroom* - In Nov. 2014, City Council authorized staff to enter into a contract with Griggs Group, Inc. (G2) for the design of the Deer Park Police Firing Range and Classroom. On July 6, 2015, the CCPD Board authorized staff to approach City Council to begin the bid process. Unfortunately, the bids received exceeded available funding. The project was redesigned and went out for rebid in early 2016. On April 5, 2016, the project was awarded to IKLO Construction in the amount of \$1,881,500. The facility is currently under construction and being funded with CCPD funds.
- *Concrete Ring Road at the City Maintenance Facility on Luella Ave.* - City Council approved \$200,000 in the 2015-2016 fiscal budget to construct a concrete ring road that will connect the existing driveways at the city maintenance facility on Luella Ave. The project went out for bid in July and is expected to be awarded by September. Anticipated completion is by the end of the fiscal year.
- *Bayou Street Drainage Outfall* - On June 7, 2016, City Council approved the purchase of services from Midas Utilities, through The Interlocal Purchasing System, to perform the Bayou Street Drainage project. The cost of the project is \$183,540 and is expected to be completed during the last quarter of 2016.
- *Ivy Street Water Line Improvements* - On May 17, 2016, City Council approved the purchase of services from Midas Utilities, through The Interlocal Purchasing System, to perform the Ivy Street Water Line Improvements. The cost of the project is \$214,959.15 and is expected to be completed by the end of the fiscal year.

### Online Payments

You can now pay for ambulance fees, retiree insurance, property taxes, court payments, water bills, and building permits online. Go to [www.deerparktx.gov](http://www.deerparktx.gov) for details.

## Resident Reminder

Maintain a clean and safe environment by removing objectionable matter from your yard and keeping the grass mowed. Do not store trash and equipment in the yard. Trash should not be placed out for pick up earlier than 6pm on the evening before the scheduled collection day. Equipment and tools should be stored in your garage or home after each use. Do not keep buckets and old tires under the carport. Such items can hold water and become ideal breeding grounds for mosquitoes.

## Permit Reminder

Always check with the Public Works Building Dept. by calling 281-478-7270 before you build on, fill, alter, or regrade your property. A permit may be needed to ensure that such projects are compliant with regulations and do not cause problems on other properties.

## Streetlights

CenterPoint Energy maintains streetlights throughout our area. To report a street light outage, call 713-207-2222 or visit [www.centerpointenergy.com/cehe/support/streetlight](http://www.centerpointenergy.com/cehe/support/streetlight). You will be asked to provide the 6-digit stenciled number on the pole to identify the exact location of the pole with the issue.



# Police Department

## *National Night Out 2016*

On Oct. 11, neighborhoods throughout Deer Park are invited to join thousands of



communities nationwide for the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual National Night Out crime and drug prevention event. National Night Out is sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch and co-sponsored locally by the Deer Park Police Dept. Over 16,500 communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories, Canadian cities, and military bases around the world will participate. Sponsors this year include ADT Corporation, NextDoor.com, Associa, Kwikset, FunFlicks, and Swank Motion Pictures.

National Night Out, a year-long community building campaign, is designed to: (1) Heighten crime prevention awareness, (2) Generate support and participation in local anti-crime programs, (3) Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships, and (4) Send a message to criminals that neighborhoods are organized and plan to fight back. In addition to the traditional outside lights and front porch vigils, most cities celebrate National Night Out with block parties, parades, festivals, safety fairs, and youth activities. On Oct. 11, residents in neighborhoods throughout Deer Park and across the nation are asked to lock their doors, turn on the outside lights, and spend the evening visiting with neighbors and police.

National Night Out emphasizes the importance of police-community partnerships and citizen

involvement in our fight to build a safer nation. Contact Sheila Plovovich, Community Liaison, at [splovovich@deerparktx.org](mailto:splovovich@deerparktx.org) or 281-930-2118 for more information.

## *9-1-1 and Cell Phones*

Over 80% of 9-1-1 calls placed in the Greater Harris County 9-1-1 (GHC 9-1-1) territory originate from cell phones. A 9-1-1 call from a cell phone provides the dispatcher with a tower location or an approximate GPS location of the phone, depending on the age of the device. This can present a significant challenge when attempting to locate a caller or the site of an emergency. A dispatcher will attempt to obtain this critical information from the caller early in the conversation. The GHC 9-1-1 territory is technologically advanced beyond industry standard and FCC requirements with GPS location of cell phones. Our telecommunicators receive specialized training on the GHC 9-1-1 system so they are equipped with the skills and knowledge to locate cell phone callers and provide emergency assistance. Make it easy for the dispatcher to locate you when using a cell phone to contact 9-1-1. An exact address for a phone is provided to the 9-1-1 dispatcher only if you are calling from a land-line phone. Be sure to call 9-1-1 only when you have an emergency requiring immediate police, fire, or EMS attention.

## *Alarm Permit Registration*

Deer Park, in partnership with AOT Public Safety Corporation, offers online alarm permit registration to businesses, churches, government offices, residents, and schools that operate an alarm system within the city. In addition

to reducing the number of false alarms, keeping first responders available for higher priority calls, and complying with the Deer Park Alarm Ordinance, this partnership provides a web-based method to record:

- the physical address of the alarm system
- the mailing address or e-mail address for correspondence
- the names and phone numbers of people that can be contacted when necessary
- the name and contact information for the alarm company that monitors your alarm system
- additional information, such as occupants with medical needs, animals, guns, or hazardous chemicals
- any other information that will be helpful to first responders

For information on alarm permits, including applications, renewals, online payments, the city's alarm ordinance, or the status of your existing account, go to [www.crywolfservices.com/deerparktx](http://www.crywolfservices.com/deerparktx). You may also contact the Deer Park False Alarm Reduction Program by mail at P.O. Box 844908, Dallas, TX 75284-4908, by phone at 855-905-0611, or by e-mail at [deerparktx@publicsafetycorp.com](mailto:deerparktx@publicsafetycorp.com).

## *Walking to School Safely*

School is back in session! Many children are walking and riding their bicycles to and from school so everyone operating a motor vehicle is obligated to be cautious and patient while driving. Teach your children to be safe walkers by walking with them and showing them the proper way to act and the rules to follow. According to the National Center for Safe Routes to School,

# Police Department

there is no magic age when children are old enough to walk without an adult.



As a parent, you must decide when your child has the skills and experience to deal with traffic safely without you. The following basic safety tips should be reviewed with your child:

- wear bright-colored clothes
- carry a flashlight or wear reflective gear if it is dark
- watch for traffic at every driveway and intersection
- be aware of parked cars that may be getting ready to move
- obey all traffic signs and signals
- cross the street safely by:
  - stopping at the curb or edge of the street
  - watching for traffic on your left, right, left, behind you, and in front of you
  - wait until all traffic is clear before you begin to cross the street
  - continue to watch for traffic until you have finished crossing the street
  - walk, do not run, to cross the street

Help your child select the safest route to school. Look for a route with the least amount of traffic, has sidewalks and the fewest street crossings, preferably crossings with a school crossing guard. Keep in mind that children are not small adults. It is difficult for them to accurately judge the speed of vehicles. Children do not anticipate all of the dangers an adult would so be sure to walk the route with your child and point out any dangers

they may not recognize on their own.

National Walk to School Day is October 5, 2016 so get out and walk your children to school!

## *Solicitation Ordinance*

The City of Deer Park adopted a new ordinance on Sept. 29, 2014, which regulates residential solicitors, peddlers and canvassers, establishes registration requirements for residential solicitors and peddlers, and regulates handbills and commercial flyers.

A *residential solicitor* is a person attempting to obtain a donation, sell a good or service, or distribute a handbill or flyer advertising a commercial event or service for a particular patriotic, philanthropic, social service, welfare, benevolent education, civic, fraternal, charitable, political, or religious purpose.

A *peddler* is a person attempting to sell a good or service.

A *canvasser* is a person attempting to enlist support for a donation to a particular religion, philosophy, ideology, political party, issue or candidate, or is distributing a handbill or flyer advertising a non-commercial event or service.

Anyone acting as a residential solicitor or peddler within the City of Deer Park must obtain a license from the City Secretary. There is a \$15 fee for a peddler's license, but no fee will be charged for a residential solicitor or canvasser. The license is valid for 14 days. Residential solicitors, peddlers, and canvassers may be in residential neighborhoods between 10am and 30 minutes before sunset of any

day, unless they have an express invitation from the resident of the home. They are required to display the license or have it readily available to confirm their compliance with the ordinance.

Residential solicitors, peddlers, and canvassers should not go onto any private property where a sign has been posted in the front yard or a sign/sticker has been placed on a door or entrance to the residence indicating prohibition against soliciting, peddling, or canvassing. **The sign should not exceed 1 square foot and may contain the words "no soliciting" or "no solicitors" in letters at least 2 inches in height.** Residential solicitors, peddlers, and canvassers must use the front or main entrance to a residence, unless the resident has expressly invited them to do otherwise.

This ordinance does not apply to a federal, state, or local government employee or public utility employee in the performance of their job duties.

Citizens may verify that a solicitor has a permit by contacting the City Secretary on weekdays between 8am and 5pm at 281-478-2394. You may also call the Deer Park Police Dept. non-emergency line at 281-479-1511 during after hours and weekends.

For more information, go to [www.deerparktx.gov](http://www.deerparktx.gov), hover over *Your Government* on the menu at the top, and click on *City Secretary*. Then click on *Licenses* from the menu on the left. You may also contact the City Secretary's Office at 281-478-7247.



# Library News

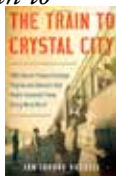
## *Friends of the Deer Park Public Library*

The dates for the annual fall book sale will be announced soon. A preview sale will be open to members of the *Friends of the Deer Park Public Library*. *Friends* support programs for children, teens, and adults, as well as provide prizes for the summer reading programs. Following the 2012 expansion, the *Friends* purchased and dedicated The Reading Tree for children of all ages to enjoy. In 2015, the *Friends* installed a built-in display case to commemorate the library's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Patrons who wish to support the library are encouraged to join *Friends*. Annual membership dues begin at \$5 for individuals, \$10 for families, and \$2 for senior citizens. For more information, call 281-478-7208.



## *Gulf Coast Reads*

The Deer Park Public Library is a participant in the annual *Gulf Coast Reads* initiative. A new book is chosen each year to be read and promoted at several libraries in the Southeast Texas region. This year, the selected title is *The Train to Crystal City: FDR's Secret Prisoner Exchange Program and America's Only Family Internment Camp During World War II* by Jan Jarboe Russell. The book is about a family internment camp in Texas during World War II. You'll read the stories of the families who lived and worked in the Crystal City camp, as well as the prisoner exchange program that took place during the



war. It is the first nonfiction book to be selected for *Gulf Coast Reads*.

*Gulf Coast Reads* program events are scheduled for October. A history professor at San Jacinto College - South Campus, Dr. Abbie Grubb, will present details about the origins, development, and internment experience during World War II on Oct. 21 at 11am in the library's meeting room. A book discussion on *The Train to Crystal City* will be held at the library during October's Mysteries & More Book Club. The book is available for checkout in hardback, large print, and electronic formats. For more information, go to [www.gulfcoastreads.org](http://www.gulfcoastreads.org) or call 281-478-7208.

## *Beginning Crochet*

*For ages 8 & over*  
*Tuesdays, 7-8pm*

This free class is offered for those with some or no previous knowledge. Learn at your own pace. Initial materials provided. Registration is not required.



## *Storytime for Babies*

According to the *Every Child Ready to Read* website, babies start learning about the world around them from the moment they are born. They begin developing language and literacy skills through interactions with parents and caregivers. Playing, singing, sharing stories, and babbling are all key components of introducing literacy. Early literacy skills can be thought of as pre-reading, which is what children

have learned about reading and writing before they can actually read. Initially, children learn about language by listening to us talk, singing songs, and doing fingerplays together. This allows them to get exposed to new vocabulary and gain knowledge. Giving babies the opportunity to see and play with books in a positive environment helps them develop a love for reading and books. The Deer Park Public Library now offers a new Infant Lapsit Storytime for ages 0-2 on Wednesdays at 10:15am.

## *Infant Lapsit Storytime*

*For ages 0 to 2*  
*Wednesdays, 10:15am*  
*Aug. 31-Dec. 14*

Storytime for infants features songs, nursery rhymes, socialization opportunities, and so much more! Parents and caregivers are required to stay with the child to help them participate.

## *Toddler Storytime*

*For ages 2 to 3½*  
*Thursdays, 10:15-10:45am*  
*Sept. 1-Dec. 15*

The sessions are designed to encourage a love for books and language, increase attention spans, and develop basic social skills. Parents and caregivers are required to stay with the toddler to encourage them to participate.

## *Preschool Storytime*

*For ages 3½ to 6*  
*Thursdays, 11am*  
*Sept. 1-Dec. 15*

Storytime incorporates books, fingerplays, songs, and activities to promote interest in reading and lifelong learning. In these sessions, children listen to stories and participate in group activities.



# Library News



A special **Halloween Storytime** session for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers will be offered on October 27 at 10:30am. Costumes are encouraged. Refreshments will be served.

## Fall Craft

For ages 5-12

Sept. 20, 3:30-4:30pm

Materials to assemble the craft are provided to children free of charge. Children may choose from 2 craft options, which accommodate ages 5 to 8 and ages 9 to 12.

## Halloween Craft

For ages 5-12

Oct. 18, 3:30-4:30pm

Materials to assemble the craft are provided to children free of charge. Children may choose from several craft options, which accommodate ages 5 to 8 and ages 9 to 12.

## Thanksgiving Craft

For ages 5-12

Nov. 22, 3:30-4:30pm

Materials to assemble the craft are provided to children free of charge. Children may choose from several craft options, which accommodate ages 5 to 8 and ages 9 to 12.

## Matinée Movies

Thursdays, 4pm

Stop by after school for a movie and popcorn! Contact the library at 281-478-7208 for movie titles and suggested age ratings.



## Teen Time

For ages 12 & over

Wednesdays, 3:45-5:45pm

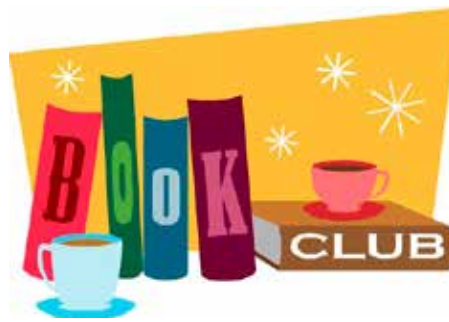
Teens will enjoy socializing, making crafts, and a little friendly competition at video gaming, board games, and card games. Free snacks are provided by the *Friends of the Library*. Teens are invited to participate in a Halloweenie Roast event on Oct. 26, which includes a video gaming tournament and a costume contest. On Nov. 23, Teen Time will offer extended hours from 1-4pm.

## T.A.B. Meeting

For ages 12-18

1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month, 4:15-5:15pm

Join the Teen Advisory Board and help plan for teen programs. Discuss reading trends and make suggestions for the teen collection. If you are interested, contact Robert at [youthlibrarian@deerparktx.org](mailto:youthlibrarian@deerparktx.org) or pick up a form at the library.



## Mysteries & More Book Club

The book club's name has changed to reflect the broader selection of books to be discussed. Meetings will continue to be every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 6pm. There will still be discussions of books from a variety of genres. Future book titles will be selected at upcoming meetings. Registration is not required. You are welcome to come whether you have read the books or not. For more information, go to

[www.deerparktx.gov/library](http://www.deerparktx.gov/library) or call 281-478-7208.

**Sept. 13** - Thrillers, *The Girl on the Train* by Paula Hawkins

**Oct. 11** - Gulf Coast Reads, *The Train to Crystal City* by Jan Jarboe Russell

**Nov. 8** - Selection to be announced



## Computer Classes

Computer classes are free, but registration is required. Open lab sessions are also available.

- **Introduction to Computers** - Become familiar with computers and technical terminology, plus get comfortable using a mouse, opening software applications, and other basic skills.
- **Browsing the Web** - Learn the basic skills of browsing the world wide web. Topics include search engines, simple search techniques, security precautions, and the basics of e-mail.
- **Using Social Networks** - Learn the basics of social networking sites and how they are used. Websites to be discussed include Facebook and LinkedIn.
- **Microsoft Word 2016 Basics** - Become familiar with the 2016 version of Word and learn how to create and edit basic Word documents, including resumes and letters.
- **Microsoft Excel 2016 Basics** - Become familiar with the 2016 version of Excel and learn how

# Library News

to create and edit basic spreadsheets, as well as use simple formulas and functions.

- **Microsoft PowerPoint 2016 Basics** - Become familiar with the 2016 version of PowerPoint and learn how to create a presentation using themes, illustrations, transitions, and animation.
- **Open Lab Session** - One-on-one assistance for Microsoft Office programs, Windows 7, and more. Our staff can assist with document formatting and electronic resources.
- **Basic Genealogy** - Learn how to use our genealogy resources to research your family history. Become familiar with Ancestry Library Edition and HeritageQuest Online.
- **Genealogy Lab** - One-on-one assistance in your search for family history. Basic Genealogy is a pre-requisite for this lab.
- **Find a Job** - Become familiar with the resources available to assist you with exploring career opportunities, searching for jobs, creating or updating a resume and cover letter, preparing for an interview, and more.
- **Keys for Career Seekers** - Discover online resources to assist you with each stage of the job search process. Use Career Cruising to search for jobs based on your skills and interests, or create a professional resume in Job & Career Accelerator, and even obtain information from popular career-oriented websites like LinkedIn and Glassdoor. Access the keys that will help unlock your potential as a candidate.

## New Arrivals for Adults

### September

- *An Obvious Fact: A Longmire Mystery* by Craig Johnson



### October

- *The Whistler* by John Grisham
- *Escape Clause* by John Sanford
- *Two by Two* by Nicholas Sparks



### November

- *No Man's Land* by David Baldacci
- *Night School: A Jack Reacher Novel* by Lee Child
- *The Wrong Side of Goodbye* by Michael Connelly
- *Chaos: A Scarpetta Novel* by Patricia Cornwell
- *Cross the Line* by James Patterson
- *Turbo Twenty-Three: A Stephanie Plum Novel* by Janet Evanovich



## Agenda & Minutes

To view City Council agendas and meeting minutes or to listen to audio recordings of past meetings, go to [www.deerparktx.gov](http://www.deerparktx.gov) and click on the *Agenda & Minutes* icon in the middle of the webpage.

# Maxwell Center

The Maxwell Adult Center is a recreational facility for seniors, ages 55 & over.

## Grandparents are Grand!

September 10, 10am-12pm

Jimmy Burke Activity Center

Join us for a special morning of crafts, snacks, and fun with your grandchildren!

## Monster Mash

October 28, 3-6pm

Maxwell Center

Come for an evening of tricks, treats, contests, and games. Music will be provided by our talented Jam Session musicians.

## Senior Olympics

November 7-11, 8am-12pm

Jimmy Burke Activity Center

Compete in a variety of activities in 5 days. Don't miss your chance for some fun and the opportunity to win a gold, silver, or bronze medal.

## Thanksgiving Dinner

November 21, 5pm

Maxwell Center

Bring your favorite dish to share at our Thanksgiving dinner. We'll provide the turkey and ham. Call or stop by to sign up to bring your tasty dish. Please RSVP by Nov. 16.

## Christmas Dinner

December 12, 5pm

Jimmy Burke Activity Center

Celebrate Christmas *blue suede shoe* style! Join us for dancing, food, and fun with Elvis and friends.

## Sunrise Exercise

Start your day right! Join us at the Maxwell Center every Tuesday and Thursday, 8-9am, for a video-based workout. Please wear comfortable clothes and rubber sole shoes.

# Maxwell Center

## Flu Shots

Instead of waiting at the doctor's office, head over to the Maxwell Center on September 29 between 10am and noon for a free flu shot. Walgreens will be administering the flu shots.

## First Friday Safety by HCSO

*Sept. 2, Oct. 7, Nov. 4 & Dec. 2*

Join us at the Maxwell Center every first Friday of the month at 10:30am for a safety presentation by the Harris County Sheriff's Office. Topics include fraud, identity theft, and tips for overall safety of vulnerable populations.

## Max Shoppers

Ride with us to some of the best shopping destinations in the Hous-

ton area. Vans leave from the Maxwell Center at 10am. Cost is \$3 per rider. For more information, call 281-478-7276.

- Sept. 16: *Thrift Store in Rice Village*
- Oct. 14: *Tanger Outlets in Cypress*
- Nov. 18: *Five Below and Dollar Tree*
- Dec. 19: *Tanger Outlets in Dickinson*

## Maxwell Gamblers

Press your luck with our trips to casinos. For more information, call 281-478-7276.

- Sept. 13: *Naskilla Casino (Livingston, TX)*
- Oct. 18: *Delta Downs (Vinton, LA)*
- Nov. 14-15: *Coushatta Casino Resort (Kinder, LA)*

## Maxwell Travelers

Join us as we visit exciting destinations across the USA. For more information, call 281-478-7276.

- Oct. 2-8: *Branson, Missouri*
- Dec. 4-9: *Biltmore Estate (Asheville, NC)*
- Jan. 30-Feb. 3: *Biloxi, Mississippi*
- Mar. 29-Apr. 8: *Washington, D.C.*
- June 10-22: *Princess Alaskan Cruise*

## Senior Day Trips

- Sept. 27: *Kings Bingo (Webster, TX)*
- Nov. 3: *Shangria, LA*
- Oct. 12: *Painted Churches*

## Follow Us

Follow the City of Deer Park on Twitter @deerparktxgov and on Instagram at deerparktxgov.

# Art Park Players

## Noises Off

*Oct. 7, 8, 14, 15, 21 & 22*

*7pm Meal, 8pm Curtain*

*Oct. 9 & 16*

*1pm Meal, 2pm Curtain*

*\$30 Meal & Show Tickets*

*\$15 Show Only Tickets*

In this play-within-a-play, the audience witnesses the hilarious chaos of a touring theater company attempting to put on a show. Everything that can go wrong, does happen to go wrong. Brimming with slapstick comedy, *Noises Off* is a delightful backstage farce, complete with missed cues, slamming doors, falling trousers, and flying sardines!

## A Christmas to Remember

*Dec. 3, 6pm Meal, 7pm Show*

*\$25 Tickets*

This special yuletide musical feast features your favorite Christmas

songs and holiday characters. Bring the whole family to this Christmas spectacular. Santa and his elves, as well as vendors and concessions, will be available in the lobby.



## Louise McBee Circle of Life, Circle of Wreaths Fundraiser

The Art Park Players are bringing the holiday season to the theatre Nov. 29 through Dec. 2, 6-9pm and Dec. 3, 6-8pm. Several vendors selling delightful treasures will set up in the lobby during the Christmas shows. You will also be amazed by the array of beautiful wreaths, each honoring someone who has had breast cancer, graciously donated by little angels in the community. The public is invited to

participate in the silent auction for the wreaths.

The winners will be announced at the end of the evening on Dec. 3. Last year, over 60 wreaths were donated. This year, we are hoping for more. If you would be interested in donating a wreath, contact Susan Mele at 281-478-7288. All donations go to The Rose and are 100% tax deductible.



For more information, call 281-478-7288. To purchase tickets to any of our shows, call the Art Park Players Box Office at 281-794-2448. Unless otherwise noted, productions and auditions are held at the Municipal Court & Theatre Building located at 1302 Center St.



# Parks & Recreation

## Tiffany's Tips

### *The Benefits of Trees*

Trees are an important part of every community. They increase our quality of life in many ways, such as:

- Improve air quality and lower greenhouse gas emissions
- Provide protection from sun and wind
- Provide shade for people and animals
- Provide shade for pavements and buildings, which slows down deterioration
- Reduce energy consumption by providing shade for our homes and keeping temperatures cooler inside
- Cool the air through transpiration
- Reduce storm water runoff and erosion
- Improve water quality through absorption and filtration
- Provide a habitat for wildlife
- Screen unpleasant views
- Add beauty and variety to landscapes
- Increase residential and business property values



It is essential to properly care for trees to maximize benefits. Start by planting the right tree in the right place. Select disease resistant varieties that are known to grow well in your area. Make sure that the amount of root and canopy space available is appropriate for your tree. Mulch, water, and the appropriate amount of the right fertilizer are also necessary. Prune your trees correctly and during the appropriate time of the year. Regularly check for insect and disease damage.

You may have noticed silver tags on trees in the parks and right-of-ways in town recently. The Parks Dept. is conducting an inventory of all our public trees to assist with planning to ensure proper care.

## Healthy Living

### *FDA Labeling Requirement*

On May 5, 2017, the United States Food and Drug Administration will begin enforcing the rule that requires restaurants meeting certain criteria to post calories on menus and provide other nutrient information in writing. The restaurants to be affected are 1) restaurants that are part of a chain of 20 or more locations, 2) doing business under the same name, and 3) are offering for sale substantially the same menu items. Americans tend to eat food prepared outside of the home frequently. Therefore, having nutrition information easily available will help consumers make more informed and healthful dietary choices.

Source: U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Menu and Vending Machines Labeling Requirements

### *Tennis*

*Sundays, starts Sept. 4, 1:30pm, for ages 6 & over, \$25 per month (4 classes) - 10U (30 minutes) or \$50 per month (4 classes) - 18U (1 hour), Dow Park Tennis Courts, Instructor Seth Suresh* This program will focus on building a solid tennis foundation. Drop-ins are welcome to attend for one day at a time if payment is made prior to Sunday.

### *Fencing*

*Tuesdays, Sept. 6-Dec. 27, 6:30-7:30pm, for ages 12 & over, \$45 per student per month, Deer Park Community Center, Room 6* This course is designed to take beginners through the rules and convention of foil fencing with an emphasis on footwork, blade work, and safety. Each class includes footwork drills, blade work practice, and supervised bouts between fencers. The goal is to get students exercising physically while playing a game that keeps the mind active.

### *Women's Situational Awareness & Self Defense*

*Sept. 7 & Nov. 2, 6:45-8:30pm, for ages 12 & over, \$35 per person, Claude Burgess Recreation Center, Instructor Tania Weber* Learn how to defend yourself and your family in a threatening situation. This program will teach you about situational awareness and personal protection tools, as well as provide tips on staying safe, improvised weapons, and simple self defense techniques.

### *Concealed Handgun Class*

*Sept. 10 & Nov. 5, 8:30am-3pm, for ages 21 & over or 18 years old if actively serving in the military, \$80 per person, plus \$15 fee paid directly to gun range, Deer Park Community*

# Parks & Recreation

*Center, Instructor CPT Benjamin J. Whitfield* This course covers the rules and regulations to obtain a license to carry a concealed firearm in the State of Texas, as well as the safety, maintenance, and storage of a firearm. Keep in mind that this course is for those obtaining their license for the first time. Renewals are now handled online through the Texas Department of Public Safety at [www.txdps.state.tx.us](http://www.txdps.state.tx.us). The forms and fingerprinting requirement must be completed prior to the class. Go to [www.tchconcealed.com](http://www.tchconcealed.com) for more information.

## **Mini Kickers Soccer Program**

*Mondays & Wednesdays, starts Sept. 12, 10am, for ages 2-5, \$101 for 6-week session, Earl Dunn Gym* British Challenger Soccer is in Deer Park to host a soccer opportunity for the little ones! Choose either Mondays or Wednesdays at 10am or 11am to attend. The program teaches children about coordination, practice drills, team concepts, and fun. Price includes a uniform and soccer ball.

## **Worldwide Day of Play**

*September 17, 12-3pm, Dow Park* Nickelodeon's Worldwide Day of Play is an entire day devoted to play! To celebrate and encourage everyone to get outside and play, Nickelodeon will go off the air from 12-3pm. Join us at Dow Park for games, face painting, inflatables, refreshments, music, and more. The Deer Park Police Department will also have a booth with activities. The event is free so bring the whole family! There will be hot dogs and ice cold water for the first 100 people. Popsicles and popcorn will be available throughout the event.

For games in the pool, you must wear a swimsuit and know how to swim. In case of inclement weather, a limited number of activities will be held inside the Deer Park Community Center.

## **Market Days**

*Sept. 17, Oct. 15 & Nov. 19, 9am-1pm, Dow Park* Stroll through Dow Park on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month. Market Days help support local businesses by allowing them to sell their ready-made or homemade items. There is always something for everyone! Parking is free for this event. Please contact Betty Geck at [marketdays@yahoo.com](mailto:marketdays@yahoo.com) if you wish to be a vendor.

## **Adult Painting Class**

*Sept. 30 & Nov. 18, 6:30-9pm, for ages 12 & over, \$30 per canvas, Deer Park Community Center, Instructor Pam Gross* Enjoy a night out and take home a painted masterpiece. Pam will guide you step by step. No painting experience necessary. All supplies included. The class in September will be painting fleur-de-lis, while the class in November will be painting an angel. You are welcome to bring snacks and beverage of choice.

## **Youth & Family Painting**

*Oct. 7 & Dec. 16, 6:30-8pm, for ages 7 & over, \$25 per canvas, \$10 for each additional canvas per family, Deer Park Community Center, Instructor Pam Gross* Enjoy a night out with the family and take home a painted masterpiece. Pam will guide you step by step. No painting experience necessary. Parents of young children are asked to stay and help the children with their paintings. You are welcome to bring snacks. The class in October will

be painting a witch cat, while the class in December will be painting a snowman.

## **Goblin Gallop 5K & Children's Monster Mile**

*Oct. 8, 8am, \$20 pre-registration or \$25 race day for 5K, \$10 pre-registration or \$15 race day for Children's Monster Mile, Deer Park Community Center* Walk or run in the Goblin Gallop 5K or Children's Monster Mile this spooky season! A portion of the proceeds from this event will be donated to The Rose, a community organization providing breast health to those in need.

## **NRA's Eddie Eagle Gunsafe Program for Children**

*Oct. 11 & Dec. 13, 6-7pm, for ages 3-10, \$10 per child, Deer Park Community Center, Instructor Tania Weber* This is the #1 gun accident prevention program in the nation. Children learn what to do if they ever come across a gun through four simple steps: Stop! Don't touch! Run away! Go tell a grown-up! This program includes watching a movie, storytime, a craft project for children, as well as a parent's guide to gun safety, and a certificate for the participant.

## **Haunted Maze**

*Oct. 14, 15, 21 & 22, 7-11pm, parental discretion is advised, \$10 for general admission, \$20 for fast pass, Jimmy Burke Activity Center* A cool shudder trickles down your spine. Glancing around nervously, you see somber portraits staring at you from behind layers of dust, seemingly infiltrating your very being. Cold, hesitant light streams in through a cracked window, casting eerie shadows on the walls. As you walk forward, you can't help but feel that

# Parks & Recreation

someone is following you. Whirling around, you see nothing but the empty hallway and the faces in the portraits staring at you. You contemplate turning back, but instead you swallow a nervous whimper and continue into the dark maze as a musty, dank odor creeps into your nose. The dead silence, the intermittent creaks of the floor, and the cobwebs covering the corners of the doors will send shivers up your spine.

## Halloween Carnival

Join us for the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Halloween Carnival on October 31 from 6-9pm at the Jimmy Burke Activity Center.

## Getting Paid to Talk

*Nov. 1, 6:30-9pm, for ages 18 & over, \$10 per person, Deer Park Community Center, Room 10* Explore new aspects of voice over work for television, film, radio, audio books, documentaries, and the Internet. The class covers all the basics, including how to prepare a demo, how to be successful, and how to earn great income in this exciting field. For more details, go to [www.voicecoaches.com/gpptt](http://www.voicecoaches.com/gpptt). Space is limited.

## 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Reindeer Park

*Dec. 2, 6-9pm & Dec. 3, 4-8:30pm, Jimmy Burke Activity Center* Join us for the 6<sup>th</sup> annual fun-filled 2-day event, Reindeer Park. There will be a Santa's Village with craft vendors, photos with Santa, Santa's Tree Farm, the Christmas tree lighting, snow areas and slides, the Reindeer Dash, and a lighted Christmas parade. The Art Park Players will provide entertainment inside the theatre. A shuttle service will be available from the

designated parking lot at the corner of Georgia and 13<sup>th</sup> Street to the Jimmy Burke Activity Center and the Court & Theatre Building between 4 and 8pm on Dec. 3. For more information, go to [www.deerparktx.gov/reindeerpark](http://www.deerparktx.gov/reindeerpark).

## Reindeer Dash

*Dec. 3, 8am, \$20 pre-registration or \$25 race day, Jimmy Burke Activity Center* Add to the Reindeer Park fun and participate in the Reindeer Dash 5K on a cross country course. All participants will receive a shirt and reindeer antlers! All proceeds will go to the Deer Park Opportunity Center, a community organization providing a hand up, not a hand out, to the students and their families.

## Sleigh Ride

*Dec. 14 - Group Night for clubs and organizations, Dec. 15, 16 & 17 - Family & Friends Nights (maximum of 10 seats can be reserved by 1 person), 1<sup>st</sup> ride, 6:15-7:30pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> ride, 7:15-8:30pm, \$5 per rider, Jimmy Burke Activity Center* Join us for hot chocolate, cookies, and Christmas lights. Once again, we are loading up the sleighs and enjoying Deer Park's holiday spirit! Reservations must be made in advance. Children must be accompanied by an adult and a waiver must be signed for each participant. Limit 60 participants per ride.

## Youth Basketball

*Saturdays, starts Jan. 2017, 8am, for ages 7-12, \$60 per child* Registration is now open for the Deer Park Youth Basketball League! The number of teams in the league are determined by the amount of volunteer coaches that register for the season. Teams will be determined

by a blind draft per age division, regardless of the school they attend. Each player receives a basketball jersey. Practices are twice a week. Games are held on Saturdays at a DPISD gym.



Check out the *Live and Play* brochure at [www.deerparktx.gov/parksandrec](http://www.deerparktx.gov/parksandrec).

## Recycle

We offer single-stream recycling at the transfer station! Residents can recycle their paper, cardboard, plastic bottles, and metal cans by dropping them all into one single bin. Sorting your recyclables is no longer necessary. The guidelines to ensure that quality material goes into the recycling bins can be found at [www.deerparktx.gov/recycle](http://www.deerparktx.gov/recycle). When you recycle, be aware that food waste, plastic bags, and polystyrene foam cups and containers are not acceptable. Improper recycling can slow down the process or even ruin the entire load of recyclables. The Transfer Station is located at 610 Underwood Road and open Monday through Friday, 8am to 6pm, and Saturday, 9am to 6pm. For more information, call 281-478-7213.





## Emergency Alerts

Deer Park residents are encouraged to register for the city's emergency notification service. To add your contact information to the database, call 281-479-2394 or go to [www.deerparktx.gov/oem](http://www.deerparktx.gov/oem), click on the Blackboard Connect icon, and then click on the one-step notification sign up icon.

## Facebook

The City of Deer Park is on Facebook! To connect, go to [www.deerparktx.gov/facebook](http://www.deerparktx.gov/facebook).



## Notify Me

Stay informed with news and announcements from the City of Deer Park by joining the e-mail subscription lists of your choice. Go to [www.deerparktx.gov](http://www.deerparktx.gov) and select *Notify Me*.

## Code of Ordinances

The City of Deer Park contracts with Municipal Code Corporation to make the City Code of Ordinances available online. By following the link on our website, you can access our code and also that of other cities across Texas and the United States. The search engine will allow you to search by topic. Go to [www.deerparktx.gov](http://www.deerparktx.gov), hover over the menu option *How Do I?*, click on *City Code*, and then follow the link.



# Employee Awards

April Support Staff	May Field Service	May Support Staff
		
Monce Noguez Central Collections	Tim Alexander Sanitation Crew	Kelly Davenport Police Department
June Supervisor	June Field Service	June Support Staff
		
Jeffery Johnson Central Collections	Caleb Hollingsworth & Nathan Naranjo Custodial Staff	Debra Culp Parks & Recreation



## Adopt-a-Pet Program

Dogs and cats are available for adoption at the Deer Park Animal Shelter after a holding period of 3 business days. There is a \$50 adoption fee, plus you must prepay for the spaying or neutering of the animal and a rabies vaccination. To view the pets currently available for adoption, visit the shelter, located at 4213 Luella, Mon.-Fri., 8am-5pm or Sat., 8am-12pm, or go to [ww.facebook.com/DeerParkTX.AnimalShelter](http://ww.facebook.com/DeerParkTX.AnimalShelter). For more information, call us today at 281-478-7274.




# Economic Development

## Business News

- *KZ Sweet Boutique* recently opened at 3428 Center St., located in the Food Town shopping center next door to Shipley Donuts and Koby's Fine Jewelry. It's a fun dessert shop serving hand-dipped ice cream, snow cones, cupcakes, cookies, old-fashioned candy, and more. They also serve coffee and a great selection of hot teas. 
- *Marcel Nails & Spa* has opened at 3424 Center St., next to Burke's Outlet in the former location of Radio Shack. No expense was spared in the build-out of this beautiful salon. Services include eyelash extensions, waxing, facials, as well as spa manicures and pedicures.
- *Steps Performing Arts Center* has moved from their location at 3432 Center St. (next door to Shipley Donuts), to 4012 Strawberry Road, consolidating with their Pasadena location.
- Congratulations to *First Choice Emergency Room* for being awarded the 2015 Guardian of Excellence award for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row. This award is a nationally-recognized symbol of achievement in health care. Deer Park's First Choice Emergency Room is located at 3701 Center St.
- *1000 Degrees Pizza*, a create your own Neapolitan pizza restaurant, is open at 8015 Spencer Highway, next to Smashburger. Their authentic Neapolitan pizza dough is hand-tossed, never frozen, and topped 

with your choice of over 50 fresh high quality ingredients. Your pizza will be baked to perfection in less than 2 minutes with their state-of-the-art oven.

- Deer Park's *Beyond Beauté* just celebrated their 30-year anniversary. Owner Shirley Terry-Lopez has transformed Beyond Beauté from simple skin care to a full service day spa and wellness center featuring massage, body treatments, nail care, and more. 
- *Clyde Fendley* has opened a commercial real estate practice in Deer Park. Licensed since 1985, Clyde is an independent broker that can help with any type of residential property. Call 281-352-5432 for details.

For questions, contact Debbie Westbeld at 281-478-2042 or go to [www.deerparktx.gov/ed](http://www.deerparktx.gov/ed).

## Silent Witness

The Silent Witness program allows citizens to voluntarily register their exterior facing home surveillance cameras with the Deer Park Police Dept. in an effort to assist with solving crimes. When a crime occurs in the vicinity of a residence that has a registered camera, the investigator will make contact with the owner and ask to view their video in an attempt to identify the suspect. The program is entirely voluntary and consent to view video footage from your camera could be withdrawn at any time.

# Council Actions

## May 2016

- Authorized the purchase of 2 backup jockey pumps for the Green Valley Lift Station and the 13<sup>th</sup> St. Lift Station in the amount of \$109,110.
- Accepted the Deer Park Community Development Corporation's Quarterly Report.
- Accepted the Deer Park Baseball Development and Renovation at Spencerview concept conducted by Halff Associates.
- Approved an agreement with T. F. Harper & Associates LP through the Texas Cooperative Purchasing Network for Deer Park Baseball Development and Renovation at Spencerview.
- Approved the Soccer Field Development Feasibility Study conducted by Halff Associates.
- Approved an agreement with Halff Associates, Inc. for architectural services for the Deer Park Community Development Corporation Soccer Field Development.
- Approved a resolution denying CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric, LLC's application for approval of a distribution cost recovery factor to increase distribution rates within the city.
- Approved a resolution accepting the proposed comprehensive wayfinding signage system plan from National Sign Plazas.
- Approved an agreement with National Sign Plazas for implementation of Phase 1 of the comprehensive wayfinding signage system plan.
- Approved an ordinance adopting the salary survey results and salary scale changes.
- Approved an ordinance amending Chapter 18 of the Code of Ordinances related to building

# Council Actions

- regulations.
  - Approved an ordinance amending 2015-2016 Water & Sewer Fund Budget.
  - Authorized staff to advertise and receive bids on the 13<sup>th</sup> Street Lift Station rehabilitation.
  - Authorized staff to advertise and receive bids on the South Plant Lift Station header replacement.
  - Approved the canvassing of the votes for the May 7, 2016 City General Election.
  - Approved an ordinance declaring the results of the General Election held May 7, 2016.
  - Awarded the bid for a one-year supply of gasoline and diesel fuel to Petroleum Traders Corp.
  - Approved the Quarterly Investment Report for October-December 2015.
  - Authorized staff to advertise and receive bids for a one-year supply of garbage bags.
  - Authorized staff to advertise and receive bids for a one-year supply of sodium hexametaphosphate for the Water Treatment Plant.
  - Approved the purchase of services from Midas Utilities, Inc. through the Interlocal Purchasing System for the Ivy Street Water Line project.
  - Rejected the bids for the renovation of the hot water system for the Court & Theatre Building and authorized staff to rebid the project.
  - Approved a proposal from Fuquay, Inc. through BuyBoard for an assessment of the city's corrugated metal pipe storm sewer system.
  - Approved an agreement with Deer Park Independent School District for FY 2016-2017 facility usage.
  - Approved an agreement with Quorum Architects for professional design services related to the new animal control shelter.
  - Approved an ordinance appointing Larry Wilson as Municipal Court Judge.
  - Approved an ordinance appointing 1 member to the Library Board of Trustees to fill an unexpired term.
  - Approved an ordinance appointing 2 members to the Parks & Recreation Commission from June 1, 2016 to May 31, 2018.
  - Approved an ordinance appointing 3 members to the Planning & Zoning Commission/Board of Adjustment.
  - Approved an ordinance appointing members to the Board of Health and City Health Officers.
  - Approved an ordinance to recommend salary survey changes.
- June 2016*
- Authorized the Parks & Recreation Department to exchange Christmas decorations with the City of Grapevine.
  - Authorized the purchase of Christmas lights from Arnett Marketing through the Texas BuyBoard.
  - Authorized the purchase from the PlayWell Group through BuyBoard for the renovation of park and playground amenities at Running Brook Park.
  - Accepted the completion of the South Plant Lift Station Trunk Main and Manhole Rehabilitation. Final cost of the project was \$296,236.28.
  - Approved the Phase 1 Design Concept for the Deer Park Wetlands project by RVi.
  - Approved the purchase of services from Midas Utilities through the Interlocal Purchasing System to perform the Bayou Street Storm Sewer Upsizing project.
  - Approved a proposal from CDM Smith for extended additional services on Phase 1 of the Wastewater Plant renovations.
  - Approved a contract with CrowderGulf, LLC for disaster debris removal services for an initial term of 3 years.
  - Approved an ordinance amending Appendix B, the Fire Training Facility Rental Fees.
  - Approved an ordinance calling a Joint Public Hearing on the request to rezone 102 Elm St. from Single Family 2 to General Commercial.
  - Approved an ordinance rescheduling the June 21, 2016 regular Council meeting to June 28, 2016.
  - Approved an ordinance to amend the Pay Classification Scale.
  - Appointed a city representative to an Arbitration Committee.
  - Awarded the bid for a one-year supply of refuse bags to Houston Poly Bag in the amount of \$142,720.
  - Awarded the bid for the Senior Meals Program to KHSS Ventures, Inc. (Skillet's Restaurant).
  - Awarded the bid for a one-year supply of sodium hexametaphosphate to Shannon Chemicals in the amount of \$1.0589 per pound for 50,000 pounds.
  - Authorized staff to seek proposals for a catering vendor to provide buffet style meals for the theater (Parks & Recreation Dept.).
  - Authorized capital improvements and equipment requested by Touchstone Golf, LLC for



# Council Actions

the golf course in the amount of \$60,000.

- Authorized staff to seek bids for the construction of a concrete connector road at the Luella Service Center.
- Authorized the purchase through BuyBoard for the renovation of park and playground amenities at Wynfield Park from Total Recreation Products, GameTime in the amount of \$98,370.77.
- Authorized the purchase through BuyBoard for shade improvements at the Dow Park baseball fields from USA Shade & Fabric Structures in the amount of \$36,256.
- Accepted the Quarterly Investment Report for January-March 2016.
- Approved an Interlocal Agreement with the Deer Park Independent School District for School Resource Officers and Crossing Guards for the 2016-2017 school year.
- Approved the renewal of an agreement with the American National Red Cross for specialized transportation services.
- Approved a recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission and an ordinance on the request of Next Step Transition Center for a Specific Use Permit for a Day Rehabilitation Center at 220 E. Vaughn Lane.
- Approved an ordinance amending Ordinance 3303 relating to paramedic shift scheduling.
- Approved an ordinance amending Section 66-178, Schedule G, of the Code of Ordinances concerning school zones.
- Approved an ordinance for a 10-foot water line easement,

adding a fire hydrant and water meters near 4804 Railroad Ave., due to the extension of a water main.

## July 2016

- Awarded the bid for the renovation of the hot water system for the Court & Theatre Building to Coopwood's Air Conditioning, Inc. in the amount of \$86,517.
- Awarded the bid for the 13<sup>th</sup> St. Lift Station Rehabilitation project to N&S Construction in the amount of \$109,500.
- Authorized the purchase of valves for the high service pumps at the Water Treatment Plant in the amount of \$68,804.
- Approved an ordinance correcting the ending effective date approving certain industrial district agreements.
- Approved an ordinance rezoning 102 Elm from Single family 2 to General Commercial.
- Authorized the purchase with E-Z-GO for a range cart for The Battleground Golf Course in the amount of \$10,704.
- Accepted the Quarterly Financial Report for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter ending March 31, 2016.
- Appointed a city representative to an Arbitration Committee.
- Approved a resolution to name the city owned park property currently referred to as the "Deer Park Wetland" to the "Deer Park Nature Preserve."
- Approved a resolution appointing members to an ad hoc committee to plan Deer Park's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.
- Approved an ordinance approving and accepting the dedication of a 15' water line easement.

- Approved an ordinance amending the FY 2015-2016 FCPEMSD Budget in the amount of \$8,611 for a one-time compensation adjustment for eligible full-time employees of the district.
- Approved an ordinance amending the FY 2015-2016 CCPD Budget in the amount of \$5,762 for a one-time compensation adjustment for eligible full-time employees of the district.
- Approved an ordinance amending the FY 2015-2016 Budget in the amount of \$409,553 for a one-time compensation adjustment for eligible full-time city employees.
- Approved an ordinance calling a public hearing on the proposed FY 2016-2017 Crime Control & Prevention District Budget.
- Approved an ordinance calling a public hearing on the proposed FY 2016-2017 Fire Control, Prevention & Emergency Medical Services District.
- Approved the adoption of an ordinance approving the final development plan for the Trammell Crow PUD located at 800 W. Pasadena Blvd. to construct a 280 unit apartment complex.
- Approved an ordinance of findings as a result of the public hearing on the buildings, structures, or premises located at 1242 Center St., known as Vega's Mexican Restaurant.

## National Night Out

Due to a scheduling conflict, the City of Deer Park will be hosting National Night Out on a special night, Oct. 11. For more details, go to page 6.

***Register Today - Before a Storm is on its way!***  
***Transportation Assistance Registry***

If you will need help evacuating in the event of a hurricane, please dial 2-1-1 to register in advance for a ride. Dial 2-1-1 as soon as possible, if you:

- Have a disability or special health care need and require assistance to get out.
- Cannot drive and cannot arrange for transportation.
- Do not have a vehicle and you have no one else to help you evacuate.

The 2-1-1 registration process gives local emergency planners a better idea of the number of individuals who may need assistance, and the type of assistance they may need. The State of Texas will provide your information back to local emergency planners so they can plan accordingly.

Once you are registered, your information is safe in the state database. There is no need to call either 2-1-1 or your local emergency management office back to verify registration. This includes people who registered last year. Unless there is a change to your information, you do not need to re-register.

You will need the following information to register:

- Name
- Address
- Phone number (There is only room for one number, so please give the best number to call.)
- Contact name
- Contact relationship (aunt, brother, son, friend, landlord, etc.)
- Contact phone number
- Do you need transportation? (yes or no)
- Do you have any pets or service animals? (yes or no)
- Do you have a special medical need? (Describe the type of need you have.)



***Save Your Life. Dial 2-1-1 To Register In Advance For A Ride.***

***Report A Concern***

To report a concern or issue that needs our attention, complete this form and return it to:  
City Manager, 710 E. San Augustine, Deer Park, Texas 77536.

*You can also submit the appropriate form online at [www.deerparktx.gov](http://www.deerparktx.gov).*

***Together we can make Deer Park a better place!***

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Best time to call: \_\_\_\_\_

Location of concern: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the issue: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



P.O. Box 700  
Deer Park, TX 77536

Presorted Std.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Deer Park, Texas  
Permit #15

The Mission of the City of Deer Park is to deliver exemplary municipal services that provide the community a high quality of life consistent with our history, culture, and unique character.

## Safety Reminder

The city's sanitation crew is responsible for residential trash pick up in Deer Park. The crew is made up of dedicated city employees, not outside contractors. Unfortunately, there has been an increase in the number of injuries sustained by the sanitation crew. Trash bags with sharp protrusions caused by the improper disposal of materials, such as broken glass, jagged-edged metal, and medical syringes, have resulted in such injuries. Generally, sharps should be placed in a cardboard box and securely taped shut, while medical sharps should be put in a heavy duty plastic container with a secure lid. The sanitation crew has a limited amount of time to make at each stop, so they don't have much time to examine each trash bag before picking it up. Please help prevent injuries and improve safety. Your cooperation is appreciated.



## Garbage Bags

The city will operate its trash bag distribution center in the west parking lot of the Jimmy Burke Activity Center at 500 W. 13<sup>th</sup> St. from Oct. 3 through Oct. 22. The distribution center will be open 6am to 6pm on weekdays and 7am to 4pm on Saturdays (Oct. 8, 15 & 22).

In late September, residential customers will receive an orange colored coupon in the mail, which will be required to redeem the boxes of trash bags. Through October 22, residents will be able to drive through and pick up 2 free boxes of trash bags. Beginning Oct. 24 through Nov. 23, residents that have not obtained their trash bags will be able to redeem their



coupon for 2 free boxes of bags by visiting the utility counter at City Hall, Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm. After the November 23 deadline, trash bags will be available for purchase at the utility counter, subject to availability, Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm, excluding holidays.

## Drive Safely

The City of Deer Park prohibits the use of wireless communication devices while driving. Please use your cell phone in hands-free mode if you must use it. Keep in mind that school is back in session, so drivers must remain alert. Many children will be riding their bicycles or walking to and from school.

